

REMARKSThe Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 1, 14, 27, 40 and 53 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 2, 15, 28, 41 and 54, respectively. Further support may be found throughout the specification. See, e.g., Scheme 1 on page 8, Scheme 2 on page 20, Scheme 4 on page 26, page 27, lines 17-21, Scheme 6 on page 31, page 32, lines 10-14, and Scheme 8 on page 36. Applicants have further amended claims 14, 28 and 40 to improve their form. Applicants have added claims 60-64. Support for these claims may be found throughout the specification. See, e.g., page 12, lines 27-32.

None of these amendments adds new matter. Their entry is requested.

The ResponseThe Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the first reaction in Scheme 1 of Cao et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 11 (2001) 3169-3173 (hereafter "Cao").

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the use of an acid in the synthesis of a diaryl amine of formula (I) from compounds of formulae (II) and (III). Cao does not teach or suggest the use of an acid in the synthesis of a diaryl amine, and thus does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-59 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the relationship of the compound of formula (I) and the coupled amine is unclear because appears that a compound of formula (II) is reacted with a compound of formula (III) to provide a compound of formula (I), which does not contain either an X or Y group. The

Examiner states that in the next claim, a further step is not necessary to remove the Y group from the coupled amine.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 14, 27, 40 and 53 to recite a step of coupling a compound of formula (II) and a compound of formula (III) to form a compound of formula (IV), and a subsequent step of removing the Y group to form a compound of formula I. Thus, claims 1, 3-14, 16-27, 29-40, 41-53 and 55-65 are clear and definite.

Conclusion

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the above amendments, consider the accompanying arguments, and allow the claims to pass to issue. Should the Examiner deem expedient a telephone discussion to further the prosecution of the above application, applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Brown

Karen E. Brown
Reg. No. 43,866
Attorney for Applicants
c/o Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated
130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Tel: (617) 444-6168
Fax: (617) 444-6483